



# Leicester's Homelessness Charter

TACKLING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER



@HomelessCharter



@LeicesterHomelessCharter



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## May 2021



### New project launched - migrant homelessness and destitution

Leicester's Homelessness Charter is pleased to be launching a new project this month which focuses on migrant homelessness and destitution in Leicester. The project, which will be led by One Roof Leicester, is due to take place over the coming months and aims to learn from the personal experiences of people affected and gain a deeper understanding of the scale of the issue in Leicester.



Through conducting interviews with people affected by homelessness, as well as gathering data from local agencies set up to support migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who are facing destitution, the project will explore the additional barriers that an individual's immigration status or 'no recourse to public funds' condition can place on their ability to access help and support if they find themselves without a home.

The work has been made possible thanks to an Innovation Fund grant from World Habitat, as part of Leicester's ongoing involvement in the European End Street Homelessness Campaign, a network of city-led campaigns from across Europe working to end street homelessness once and for all. To find out more please visit [our website](#).

Lived experience forum in action at The Stairway Project.  
Photos courtesy of Dear Albert.

## News and updates

- **Date for your diary - Thursday 24th June 1-2.30pm - Online** - Leicester's Homelessness Charter Impact Event. Join us in taking a look back at how the Charter has evolved since its launch three years ago and help us to celebrate the partnerships that continue to make a real difference to people experiencing homelessness in Leicester. Email [eilidh.stringer@togetherleicester.org.uk](mailto:eilidh.stringer@togetherleicester.org.uk) to sign up to attend.
- Leicester's Homelessness Charter is teaming up with [Hope for Justice](#) to bring a free training session focused on modern slavery and human trafficking for staff and volunteers supporting people affected by homelessness in Leicester. The 3 hour session will take place online on the morning of Wednesday 28th July. For more information and to book your place please contact [eilidh.stringer@togetherleicester.org.uk](mailto:eilidh.stringer@togetherleicester.org.uk).
- Charter signatories, Action Homeless and One Roof Leicester, have joined 62 others in adding their names to a joint statement calling on the Government to scrap new immigration rules which make rough sleeping grounds for refusing or cancelling a person's permission to remain in the UK. [Read the full statement here](#).
- Leicester's Homelessness Lived Experience forum, supported by Dear Albert, is continuing to develop with the next session planned for Tuesday 22nd June (1pm) at the Stairway Project. Anyone with personal experience of homelessness is very welcome to join. For all the latest updates please visit the [Dear Albert facebook page](#).
- Action Homeless are looking for Homeless Services Officers and Trainees to join their team. [Find out more and apply here](#).
- During this final week in May, Inclusion Health Care have delivered 120 2nd dose covid vaccinations to patients. 37% of patients at the Inclusion practice and 25% of patients at Assist have had their 1st dose. Both practices remain open for patients.

## A closer look...

**This month we're taking a closer look at The Bridge - Homelessness to Hope**, a local charity which has a strong Christian-ethos and began in 2009 with a mission to help people who are homeless in Leicester by providing them with hot food, drinks and most importantly, companionship. Today, The Bridge's team and volunteers derive from many backgrounds and religions, all with one common goal: to help those who are on the street move from despair to hope.

We spoke to Keith Neville, Case Manager who told us about his role within the charity. Read an excerpt from the interview below and catch the full version on [our website](#).

### Tell us about your role and how long you've been working with people experiencing homelessness.

I'm the newest member of the team, having joined the charity in March 2021. I'm responsible for line managing the team and supporting our fantastic staff and volunteers in the great work that they do, as well as handling my own caseload. I am also responsible for overseeing our trauma-based Psychologically Informed Environment (PIE) approach, which underpins every aspect of our provision.

Before working with the homeless community, I worked in education for 15 years, with a particular interest in the power of relationships and communities to improve people's life chances.

I am also studying part-time in the evenings to gain a qualification in counselling and psychotherapy, which complements my role at The Bridge where I am a daily point of contact for many of our guests.

### What does The Bridge offer to people experiencing homelessness in Leicester?

The Hope Centre gives our guests a safe space to access the help they need. This can be with basic needs such as having a shower, washing clothes or having a free hot meal at our Community Cafe, provided by our brilliant Kitchen Coordinator, Lesley, and our incredible team of volunteers, all ably coordinated by our fantastic Volunteer Coordinator, Jojo.

Because we passionately believe in long-lasting and sustained change, we also have dedicated caseworkers in myself and Karen, who are on hand to assist with applications for housing, benefits and EU Settlement Scheme applications. We can also assist with helping guests to access medical treatment and support for their mental health.

We also have a range of fantastic activities organised by our superb Hub Coordinator, Gemma, such as our art and music sessions. On top of that, we also run a superb mentoring programme - The Lighthouse Project - developed by Lea, our Mentoring Coordinator.

This gives individuals a dedicated mentor for a period of three to six months, helping to increase their confidence and reduce feelings of isolation. In short, we do loads!

### Are there any ways that the local community can get involved?

Lots! There are simple ways, such as donating money or clothes. This can be done by visiting our website [www.bridgeleicester.org](http://www.bridgeleicester.org) and checking out our clothing wish list. We also accept food donations. Details of what we can accept can be found on the website. If people want to get more actively involved, we have a superb volunteering programme and mentoring programme, and the details of current opportunities and how to get involved can again be found on our website. We welcome people of all backgrounds and life experiences - the richness of our community is part of what makes supporting The Bridge such a rewarding thing to do and part of why I love working here.

Read the full interview [here](#).

